

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5764

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 5181

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, MY

SUBJECT: EC AND ASEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH MINISTER D'ESTAING GAVE
DISCOURAGING ANSWER TO QUESTION OF ASEAN
PINEAPPLE SALES IN EC DURING RECENT VISIT TO KUALA
LUMPUR. INABILITY TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS
PRODUCT LIKELY TO COMPEL ASEAN TO ADOPT MORE
DIFFUSED STRATEGY TOWARDS EC. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY
KARIM MARZUKI, FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER VALERY
GISCARD D'ESTAING DID NOT RAISE PINEAPPLE ISSUE
DURING RECENT VISIT. WHEN MALSYIANS ASKED
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HIM PRIVATELY D'ESTAING REPLIED THAT GOF WOULD NOT

RPT NOT RELAX OPPOSITION TO ENTRY OF MALAYSIAN
PINEAPPLE TO EC ON FAVORABLE TERMS. MARZUKI ADDED
THAT D'ESTAING BROUGHT NO GOOD NEWS TO OFFSET
THE DECISION ON PINEAPPLE.

3. THIS NEGATIVE DECLARATION CONTRASTS WITH
GUARDED OPTIMISM IN D'ESTAING'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS.
AFTER TELLING A PRESS CONFERENCE "I THINK SOMETHING
CAN BE WORKED OUT," D'ESTAING SAID THAT HE SAW
"NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES" FOR PALM OIL BUT NOTED THAT
"A SOLUTION" HAD TO BE FOUND FOR PINEAPPLE.

4. AS RESULT OF D'ESTAING'S COMMENTS MALAYSIANS VIEW
PROSPECTS OF ASEAN DISCUSSION WITH EC EVEN MORE
GLOOMILY THAN BEFORE. ASEAN SOLIDARITY HAS BEEN
DOUBTFUL ALL ALONG AND INABILITY TO MAKE PROGRESS ON
PINEAPPLE WILL RENDER INTEGRATED APPROACH
GENERALLY LESS PROMISING. MFA BELIEVES ASEAN WILL "GO BACK
TO DRAWING BOARD" AT COMING MID-DEC MEETING IN BANDUNG.

5. ALTHOUGH D'ESTAING'S BAD NEWS DAMPENED VISIT
FOR OFFICIALS WHO WERE HOPING FOR MORE, FRENCH
INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION WHICH BROUGHT D'ESTAING TO
KUALA LUMPUR WAS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. BY ALL
ACCOUNTS FRENCH EXHIBITION MOST IMPRESSIVE
COMPREHENSIVE DISPLAY YET SHOWN IN MALAYSIA.
LIKE THE US, FRANCE RUNS SIZEABLE TRADE DEFICIT
WITH MALAYSIA AND DESIRES TO CORRECT THIS "ABNORMAL
SITUATION" THROUGH MAJOR COMMERCIAL EFFORT
WHICH IT INAUGURATED WITH TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL
EXHIBITION. PRELIMINARY REPORTS SUGGEST SUBSTANTIAL
ORDERS PLACED, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER
RETURNS JUSTIFY COSTLY DISPLAY OF FRENCH INDUSTRIAL WARES.
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